

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

2100 2nd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20593-0001
Staff Symbol: G-MSO-4
Phone: (202) 267-2079
Fax: (202) 267-4690
Email: csullivan@comdt.uscg.mil

16450
June 6, 2005

Dear Ballast Water Treatment System Developer:

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) introduced to U.S. waters via ships' ballast water are a serious environmental problem. Congress has directed the Coast Guard to develop a National Ballast Water Management Program (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/mso4/bwm.html>) to reduce the risks of biological invasions mediated by ships' ballast water.

One of the key hurdles to preventing such invasions is the development of effective and practicable treatment technologies for reducing the numbers of viable organisms in ships' ballast water. The Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under the Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program (<http://www.epa.gov/etv>), have collaboratively developed draft protocols for verifying the performance of ballast water treatment systems.

The Coast Guard, with the assistance of the Naval Research Laboratory's (NRL) Center for Corrosion Science and Engineering has undertaken to conduct a pilot validation test of the ETV draft protocols. The pilot validation test will be conducted at the NRL test facility in Key West, Florida. Parties interested in having their commercially available ballast water treatment systems considered for use in the pilot validation test are invited to review the selection criteria posted on the NRL web site (<http://www.nrlkw.com>), and submit proposals following the provided instructions. Proposals must be submitted by the date listed on the NRL web site. The Coast Guard, EPA, and NRL intend to select at least one qualifying treatment system for use in validating the draft test protocols. The validation tests are tentatively scheduled to take place during fall, 2005, but the actual dates will depend on the specific system(s) selected.

I hope you will give some consideration to this opportunity to assist in the development of standardized verification protocols for ballast water treatment systems. This is an excellent opportunity to have the performance of your treatment systems rigorously and independently evaluated.

Subj: BWT System Developers Letter

16450
6 June 2005

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Richard Everett of my staff at (202)267-2243 or REverett@comdt.uscg.mil.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. HENNESSY', is written over the printed name.

R. J. HENNESSY
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Acting Chief, Office of Operating and
Environmental Standards
By Direction